

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-20 without prejudice.

Please add new Claims 21-22 as follows:

Claim 21 (New) An apparatus for optical modulation, comprising:

a phase modulator configured to drive light with an NRZI-coded drive signal for phase modulation; and

an intensity modulator to modulate the intensity of a phase-modulated NRZI-coded optical signal received from said phase modulator, with an operating point set such that the output of said intensity-modulated optical signal is eliminated in case a phase of said NRZI-coded optical signal is continuously same value.

Claim 22 (New) A method of optical modulation, comprising:

driving, at a phase modulator, light with an NRZI-coded drive signal for phase modulation;

modulating, at an intensity modulator, the intensity of a phase-modulated NRZI-coded optical signal received from said phase modulator; and

eliminating the output from an optical signal intensity-modulated at said intensity modulator in case a phase of said NRZI-coded optical signal is continuously same value.